

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041195

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 /015 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JPBECKER:KP

APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON

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R 242009Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

UNCLAS STATE 041195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, GE

SUBJECT: TRIP BY SOMERSET RESIDENTS

FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER

DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM SENATORS FORD AND HUDDLESTON FOR A GROUP OF SOMERSET, KENTUCKY RESIDENTS WHO PLAN TO VISIT EAST BERLIN AND/OR THE GDR THIS SPRING. OUR FIRST INDICATION THAT SUCH A TRIP WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION CAME IN A DECEMBER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH BOB MILLER (SEE BECKER LETTER TO YOU OF JANUARY 10, 1975.) THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS NOW CONSIDERING SPONSORING THIS TRIP AND HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT, THROUGH SENATORS FORD AND HUDDLESTON, FOR APPROVAL OF THE VENTURE. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT NORMALLY APPROVE OR DIS-APPROVE (EXCEPT WHEN OBVIOUS CONDITIONS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY MAKE TRAVEL UNWISE) OF ORGANIZED TOURIST TRIPS ABROAD BY AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND LETTER TO CHAMBER SIMPLY STATING THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO SUCH A TRIP AND THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING IN GDR AND EAST BERLIN RECEIVE NORMAL CONSULAR PROTECTION

ACCORDED BY OUR CONSULAR OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN INDICATION FROM YOU, HOWEVER, OF UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT PLANS IF ANY HAVE BEEN MADE WITH YOU BY THE GROUP

FOR THE TRIP AND WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WISHES
CONCERNING THE ASSISTANCE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ATTEMPT
TO PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE041195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPBECKER:KP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750065-0804
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750218/aaaaapqr.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIP BY SOMERSET RESIDENTS FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER
TAGS: OTRA, GC
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006